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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AVIATION MANAGEMENT**

Safety Alert

No. 04-05

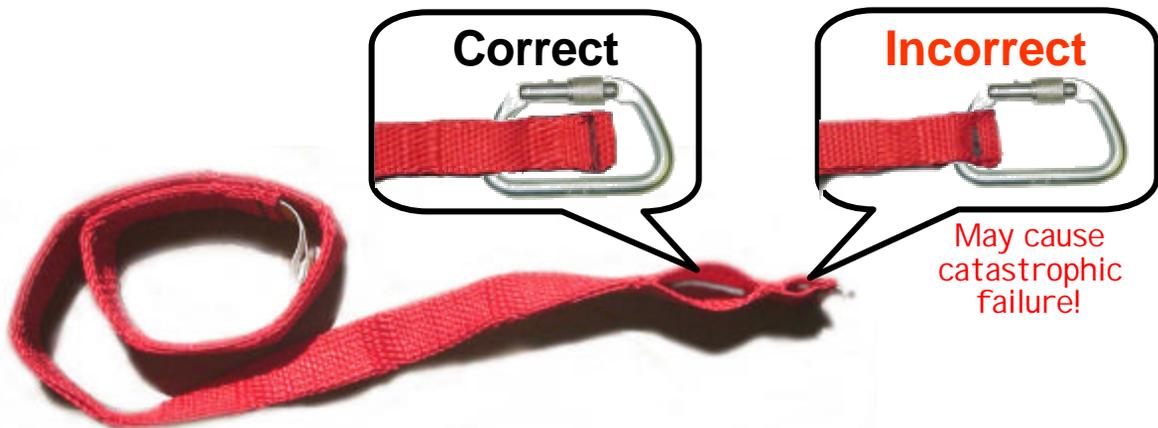
August 6, 2004

Subject: Short-haul and Rescue Equipment
Area of Concern: Helicopter Operations/Rescue Operations
Distribution: All Fire and Aviation Personnel

Discussion:

During annual short-haul training, a check spotter observed an Omni-Sling brand webbing multi-loop strap being used incorrectly to connect a short-hauler to the main short-haul line.

The Omni-Sling multi-loop strap features an interwoven design which allows the user to safely attach a carabiner to multiple rigging loops along the length of the strap (see detailed blow-up for correct attachment of carabiner).



Do not attach a carabiner to the end of the strap (see detailed blow-up of incorrect attachment of carabiner) next to the stitching. The sewn stitching at the end of the strap, which is used to attach a manufacturer's label, **is not** intended to be load bearing.

Note: if the space between the stitching and the last section of the interwoven webbing is large enough to insert a carabiner, additional stitching can be used to close the space. But, **do not** remove stitching. By law, the manufacturer's label must be displayed.

For additional information contact
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/s/ Robert Galloway
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